CONTROLLED LOW STRENGTH MATERIAL

Controlled low strength material (CLSM) shall consist of a workable mixture of aggregate, cementitious materials, and water. Controlled low strength material shall conform to the provisions in Section 19-3, "Structure Excavation and Backfill," of the Standard Specifications and these special provisions.

At the option of the Contractor, controlled low strength material may be used as structural backfill for pipe culverts within trenches.

When controlled low strength material is used for structure backfill, the width of the excavation shown on the plans may be reduced so that the clear distance between the outside of the pipe and the side of the excavation, on each side of the pipe, is a minimum of 6 inches [150 mm] except that 12 inches [300 mm] shall be required for pipes 42 inches [1050 mm] and greater in diameter or span when height of cover is greater than 20 feet [6.1 m]. Controlled low strength material shall not be used with underground structures having a span greater than 20 feet [6.1 m].

Controlled low strength material in new construction shall not be permanently placed higher than the basement soil. For trenches in existing pavements, permanent placement shall be no higher than the bottom of any existing pavement permeable drainage layer; if no drainage layer(s) are present, permanent placement in existing pavements shall be no higher than: a) 1 inch [25 mm] below the bottom of the existing asphalt concrete, or b) no higher than the top of base below existing Portland cement concrete pavements. When used, the minimum height that controlled low strength material placed relative to the pipe invert shall be: 0.5 d (diameter) for rigid pipe and 0.7 d for flexible pipe.

When controlled low strength material is proposed for use, the Contractor shall submit a mix design and test data to the Engineer for approval prior to excavating the trench for which controlled low strength material is proposed for use. The test data shall demonstrate that the mix design provides:

a) For pipe culverts having a height of cover of or less, a 28-day compressive strength between 50 and 100 psi [345 and 690 kPa] is required; for height of cover greater than 20 feet [6.1 m], a minimum 28-day compressive strength of 100 psi [690 kPa] is required. Compressive strength shall be determined by ASTM Test Method D4832, "Preparation of Testing of Soil-Cement Slurry Test Cylinders."

b) When controlled low strength material is used as structure backfill for pipe culverts, the sections of pipe culvert in contact with the controlled low strength material shall meet the requirements of Chapter 850 of the Highway Design Manual using the minimum resistivity, pH, chloride content, and sulfate content of the hardened controlled low strength material. Minimum resistivity and pH shall be determined by California Test 643, the chloride content shall be determined by California Test 422, and the sulfate content shall be determined by California Test 417.

c) Cement shall be: any type of Portland cement conforming to the provisions of ASTM Designation C 150; any type blended hydraulic cement conforming to ASTM C 595M; or any type blended hydraulic cement conforming to the physical requirements of ASTM C 1157M. Testing will not be required.

d) Admixtures may be used in conformance with Section 90-4 of the Standard Specifications and the following: Chemical admixtures containing chlorides as CI in excess of 1 percent by mass of admixture, as determined by California Test 415, shall not be used.

Materials for controlled low strength material shall be thoroughly machine-mixed in a pugmill, rotary drum, or other approved mixer. Mixing shall continue until the cementitious material and water are thoroughly dispersed throughout the material. Controlled low strength material shall be placed in the work within 3 hours after mixing.

Controlled low strength material shall be placed in a uniform manner that will prevent voids in, or segregation of, the backfill, and will not float or shift the culvert. Foreign material that falls into the trench prior to or during placing of the controlled low strength material shall be immediately removed.

When controlled low strength material is to be placed within the traveled way or otherwise to be covered by paving or embankment materials, it shall achieve a maximum indentation diameter of 3 inches [76 mm] prior to covering and opening to traffic. Penetration resistance shall be as measured by ASTM Test Method C 6024, "Standard Test Method for Ball Drop on Controlled Low Strength Material to Determine Suitability for Load Application."

Controlled low strength material used as structure backfill for pipe culverts will be considered structure backfill for compensation purposes.